

# California GARDEN

SAN DIEGO COUNTY'S GARDEN MAGAZINE FOR 52 YEARS

## A Plant Tour of Presidio Park

**JUNE-JULY, 1961**

VOL. 52, NO. 3

**35 cents**





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# CALIFORNIA GARDEN

JUNE-JULY, 1961 VOL. 52, No. 3

Human nature being what it is, we thought of all sorts of high-sounding motives to back up the major feature on Presidio Park that takes up ten pages of this issue. But in spite of the fact that it may well be a service to humanity, it is included here because, from the moment Chauncy Jerabek suggested it several months ago, we wanted to do it. Mr. Jerabek haunted the Park this spring until the Park employees wondered if he had come out of retirement. Former editor Alice Clark commuted regularly from La Jolla while preparing the map that makes the text doubly meaningful, and in the process, became more and more enthusiastic as she discovered trees and shrubs that she hadn't known were there. But frustrated, she would add, since nothing seemed to stay put from one trip to the next.

A few months ago the La Jolla Garden Club quietly disbanded because it no longer had a reason for existence. At the same time, in San Diego, two new organizations emerged into fairly furious activity. These were the Balboa Park Protective Association, whose mission is self-evident from its title, and Citizens Coordinate, formed to provide a meeting ground for organizations with an interest in the physical appearance of San Diego County. The puzzle here concerns the purpose of garden clubs.

Protecting existing parks and encouraging new ones are time-honored functions of organizations dedicated to horticulture. The physical appearance of the community seems an obvious corollary interest. If the La Jolla Garden Club sees no reason for continued activity, you might reason that in La Jolla, parks and physical appearance leave nothing to be desired. But it isn't true. La Jolla is undergoing rapid changes, and not necessarily for the better.

If you dislike the proliferation of organizations, and the passing of old and cherished ones, you may well ask yourself if your garden group is really fulfilling its functions, or if its functions are broad enough to satisfy community needs. You may find that your club has settled into a semi-social rut, and that some new group is doing the important, vital, and satisfying work of the world. What happens

next? Sooner or later, the new group absorbs your members.

If I were to suggest that some garden group in San Diego study the Rancho Santa Fe operation (page 28) and go out and do likewise, I'd probably get the immediate reaction "San Diego's too big!" To avoid that, let me cut the proposition down to workable size: Who is willing to tackle the triangle of asphalt at Five Points and turn it green?

Plants are not people! This profound statement results from the nausea induced by reading a few articles wherein plants do a lot of talking. All right, so they sometimes manage to make themselves understood, but only because human beings have the intelligence to interpret their signs.

The letters column of *Horticulture* is boiling with controversy. It began in March with a letter from a Texan stating unequivocally that the magazine had gone over to the enemy, i.e., too much landscaping, roomscaping, design, and not enough articles for dirt gardeners. Since then, the pros and cons have been flying thick and fast.

Those of you who have followed CALIFORNIA GARDEN for a number of years have seen it change substantially, especially during the last year. We have received many compliments, for which we are grateful, but recognize that an absence of complaints does not necessarily mean complete accord. This magazine is still very much in a formative stage; you deserve a voice in its development. So what do you think of it as it is, and what would you like to see it become?

A few questions may start you thinking: Do you favor issues on a single subject or theme (as the Japanese issue in February, or the rose issue in April)? Do you enjoy articles on parks? On outstanding home gardens? Do you like (hate) flower arrangements? Do we use enough pictures? Do you want a monthly garden magazine? Do you find the magazine useful? If not, why not? I could go on and, but I'd rather turn it over to you. I'm reserving three hours a day for reading the mail; I don't promise to answer it, but I'll read it.

George La Pointe

COVER — Photographer Thos. L. Crist captured the inviting quality of Presidio Park in this view of Cosoy Way at the east end of "The Bowl." Wide expanses of lawn invite picnickers, and tree-studded slopes invite exploring.

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## CALIFORNIA GARDEN

Published Bi-Monthly by the  
SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION  
Dr. Ralph Roberts, President

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Office hours: M-W-F, 10-3. Phone BE-2-5762

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Subscriptions to California Garden, \$2.00 per year, foreign countries and Canada \$2.50. California Garden is on the list of publications authorized by the San Diego Retail Merchants Association. Address Balboa Park, San Diego 1, Calif. Price of subscription is included in SDA dues. Second class postage paid at San Diego, Calif.



# NATIONAL CITY SHOW FEATURES FINE FERNS

Fern fanciers should reserve the weekend of June 24-25, the dates of National City Garden Club's ninth annual Flower Show. Ferns are traditionally an outstanding exhibit. The show will be held in the Community Center, 140 E. 12th, National City, from 2-9 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday. There is no admission charge.

A mural by Mrs. Marie Perrington of a mountain scene and waterfall will decorate the lobby and introduce visitors into the cool world of plants and flowers in the Community Center building and Annex.

Entries are open to the public. For information, contact K. W. Thomas, show chairman, 164 5th, Chula Vista, HA 0-3356. Brochures are available from Mrs. Richard La Rue, 1933 O Avenue, National City, GR 7-8196. One of the awards offered is the Ira Harbison Perpetual Trophy for the best plant in the show. Previous winners are Kenneth Boulette and Steve Talnadge.

The National City club was formed in 1950 as the National City Fuchsia Club, a branch of the California Fuchsia Society. Mrs. La Rue was organizer and first president. From twenty charter members the club has grown to a current membership of 125. It took the name National City Garden Club in 1959.

The club has contributed to the beautification of National City and Chula Vista through gifts of plants for landscaping of community buildings and parks. Other activities include monthly sewing sessions for Childrens Hospital, and plant sales at shows and garden tours, with proceeds going to the Hospital.

## CALENDAR

June

24-25—National City  
Flower Show.

30—Southern California  
Exposition, Del Mar  
(through July 9).



TYPICAL scene at the Flower and Garden Show at Del Mar includes massed tuberous begonias, exotic birds, and intent spectators. Freshly-cut pine boughs add a woody air.

## Flower Show of the Year ... at DEL MAR

THE FLOWER and Garden Show is again expected to be one of the outstanding features of the Southern California Exposition and San Diego County Fair scheduled for June 30 through July 9 at Del Mar. The exposition's floriculture department is one of the outstanding flower shows in the entire Southland and one of the most popular features of the annual exposition.

Growth of the flower show has been spectacular during the past 10 years under the direct supervision of M. E. Salsberry, exhibit superintendent. Starting with only 20 exhibitors in 1936, the Flower and Garden Show now boasts more than 3,000 exhibitors, including nurserymen, florists, garden clubs and individuals. It is estimated that the purchase price of all the choice and rare blooms and plants exhibited in the show would run well over \$100,000.

The flower show in 1936 consisted of a small triangular piece of ground covered with old canvas. Shrimp netting is now used to shade the outdoor area. Supporting the netting are pine

logs decorated with fresh pine boughs to give the entire area a natural outdoor atmosphere.

This year, a special rose division, in cooperation with the San Diego Rose Society, and a special dahlia division in cooperation with the San Diego County Dahlia Society, will be open to amateurs. Specimen blooms of dahlias will be displayed by commercial growers.

Amateur division classes include cut flower dahlia displays, garden club displays, junior garden and patio garden displays, hanging baskets, potted plants and miniatures. The amateur flower arrangements division by individual exhibitors covers scores of categories with several judgments throughout the 10-day run of the exposition.

Deadline for feature exhibit entries has been set for June 1. For arrangements, corsages, miniatures, specimen blooms and plants, entry forms must be received by the exposition not later than June 17.

Premium list books and entry forms may be secured free of charge by writing to Southern California Exposition and San Diego County Fair, Del Mar, Calif.

## FUN MAIL

Hot on the heels of Frank Quintana's provocative letter in the April issue comes this communique from Osaka, Japan, where Austin Faricy, San Diego plant enthusiast and writer for CALIFORNIA GARDEN, is teaching at the University of Foreign Studies. Here is his . . .

# Report from Japan

**T**HE dual personality of Japan, so widely commented on in politics and religion, and so immediately striking to the foreigner in the difference between private politeness and public rudeness, permeates the world of gardening also.

*Aut Caesar aut nihil.* If a garden is not in the classical style, it is just any kind of a hodgepodge. If cut flowers are not teased into the pleasing artificiality of ikebana, they are just jammed into a pitcher.

The Japanese themselves think, and have persuaded the world, that they love flowers and trees. It is true that you see vases of flowers, or flower arrangements, in all sorts of places, like buses and shop windows; and the most poverty-stricken, packing-crate hovel will have some potted plants outside it. Only—the flowers are very often dead, and the potted plants are torpid with dust and neglect.

As for trees, Professor Gail Butt in Kyoto summed up the Japanese point of view: "Woodman, spare that tree—but just barely!" A Japanese park or garden, when the pruners have got through with it, is a scene of desolation.

Japanese aesthetic is a visual

monopoly. If a thing looks right, the Japanese have no interest in how (or whether) it smells, sounds, or tastes. The traveler soon finds that the exquisitely displayed fruit is quite devoid of flavor. The philosophical viewing of landscapes or cherry blossoms is accompanied by transistor radios loudly dispensing the jazz the Japanese love so much. And after a year filled with scentless roses, sweet peas, and freesias, I am starved for fragrance.

The signal exception is daphne. I think of the succession of moribund gallons I coddled in San Diego. Here in Japan it thrives in dust and neglect, and bursts into its thousand nosegays of ineffable scent. But I am the only person I have seen stopping to smell it.

**T**HE profusion of flowers in the markets, and the cheapness of plants at nurseries, are the results of great skill, and of back-breaking toil on the part of the growers. For nature is by no means helpful. Garden and potting soil, in this part of Japan, is about what you would get if you scraped the surface of a well-traveled dirt road. Floods alternate with droughts. Searing winds give way to Ancient-Mariner calms while everything rots. The life



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of a flower grower is no bed of roses or anything else, and his success is a tribute to persistence and industry—as well as an indictment of his sub-marginal working and living standards.

When you live in Japan, you come to realize, a little wryly, that some of the “shibui” (restrained) practices, which the starry-eyed West thinks that Japan arrived at through innate superior taste, are simply an agreement to make a virtue out of necessity. I admire bonsais in a detached sort of way: I couldn't do them myself. Not only do I not have the patience; I haven't the heart to starve and stunt a plant any more than an animal. But in a country where so many growing things are inevitably starved and stunted, you might as well make a cult of it and see what you can achieve.

Or take that single flower, which, along with the three correctly bent twigs in ikebana, is supposed to evoke for the sensitive observer all of multifarious nature. That may indeed be, but another explanation suggests itself to the resident foreigner's matter-of-fact mind. Flowers are cheap by our standards, but for even the cheapest, the average Japanese must decide whether he can afford to buy it and still eat.

Perforce, he learns to use flowers a few at a time.

And the front-door garden, compressing the distant prospect of a mountainous landscape into the size of a twin bed or a playpen, is a tacit concession to Japanese building codes, which permit city houses to cover every inch of the property.

The absence of lawn or groundcover is understandable in the absence of open space, or, conversely, in the presence of open space that is trampled by millions of feet daily. What is harder for the gardener of English-American background to understand is the apparent Japanese aversion to a lawn even where it is feasible. And it is not on account of the work involved: the Japanese never shrink from work. You will see a small army of gardeners in a public park—doing what? pulling up every blade of grass, while leaving bottle tops and broken glass untouched. This is the Mysterious East with a vengeance.

SO WHAT gladdens your heart and feasts your eyes when you live in Japan every day? Well, a good many days nothing does: the ugliness of Japanese cities is appalling and ubiquitous. But not far from where I live is the Keita-

kuen, a large and beautiful classical landscape garden, with ponds, pavilions, bridges, lanterns and “mountains.” It was the property of the rich and powerful Sumitomo family, which gave it to the city. The city maintains it on a semi-private basis, and you can enter for a small fee. It thus retains an air of seclusion and untampered-to-death-ness that make it the hidden jewel of Osaka.

At home I depend on cut flowers, toward which I exercise no “shibui” whatsoever, particularly in chrysanthemum time. And on all of the window ledges of my large apartment, which occupies the whole second floor of the “Official Residence,” I keep a succession of flowering plants, brought in at the peak of perfection by a wizard from his flower farm in the country. Our relationship is compounded equally of mutual esteem and mutual mystification. That seems to be standard in successful relations when you live in Japan.

Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, Arcadia, California, will begin its second, year-long Professional Gardener School in September. The free course includes both theory and practice. For further information, contact Dr. Louis B. Martin, Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia.

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President: Mrs. Jack Brook HO 6-0162

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President: Mrs. J. L. Riese GA 2-0587

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President: Mrs. Elmer Berggren HA 0-3504

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President: Mrs. Wm. Cordes BR 6-4182

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Horticulture Workshop—fourth Friday, 9:30  
a.m.

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**Garden Clubs: Help us to help you!**  
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# California Garden

JUNE-JULY, 1961

## A PLANT TOUR

● Presidio Park, where California began, was given to the city of San Diego by George W. Marston on July 16, 1929, at ceremonies commemorating the 160th Anniversary of the city's settlement. The picture on the opposite page shows the Junipero Serra Museum and a portion of the grounds as they looked shortly before that ceremony. Today, thirty-two years later, the Museum seems even more at home on its hilltop, and the thirty-acre Park is a wonderland of grassy slopes, brush-covered hillsides, and trees and shrubs of uncommon interest.

The idea that ownership of this historic site should rest in public hands originated with three men, Mr. Marston, C. Aubrey Davidson, and Col. David C. Collier. It was Mr. Marston's persistent effort over a period of years, however, which finally resolved the tangles of ownership and made possible the conversion of a pasture for Old Town goats into the present historical and horticultural monument.

After Mr. Marston, the credit for Presidio Park goes to landscape architect John Nolen, architect Templeton Johnson, decorator Ross H. Thiele, who journeyed to Spain to collect furnishings for the Museum, to the San Diego Historical Society, which developed and maintains the Museum, to landscape architect Roland S. Hoyt, who carried out the planting of the grounds from 1928 to 1933, and to the City Parks and Recreation Department.

Inevitably, the location of the Museum was dictated by the terrain. In 1927, Hale J. Walker, John Nolen's assistant, and Kenneth Gardner, San Diego City Planner, sat on a stone near the present location of the University of San Diego, and, looking southward across Mission Valley, sketched a simple, domed building on the commanding promontory. This was to become the Serra Museum.

Roads and paths were laid out with the same respect for terrain, and with a strong sense of history. Fort Stockton remains in a nearly natural state; the re-built wall at Mission Valley rim defines the original limits of the old Spanish settlement. A polygonal bastion, which history showed as a feature of the fortifications, was built near the Serra Cross, which stands on the site of the original Presidio.

The President of the American Society of Landscape Architects once called Roland Hoyt to congratulate him on the Park, exclaiming that the planting was so natural, so free, that one had the feeling that it hadn't been planned. Mr. Hoyt explained that the impression was correct: the actual planting had been designed on the ground. The only landscape plan in existence is a record of planting, drawn after the fact.

Mr. Hoyt's extensive knowledge of plant materials and profound sense of appropriate planting for this region led him to use a combination of native and exotic plants. The natives are less

prominent today, since the Park is now dominated by large trees. But go back thirty years. . . .

*Near the upper entrance, the area known as The Bowl, originally a reservoir, was designated for development as an outdoor theater, and the belt planting of pines was laid out with that idea in mind. The open bowl, today a beautiful sweep of lawn and one of the most popular picnic spots in town, was filled with California poppies studded with masses of blue lupine. The steep hillside to the east of the Eucalyptus Grove was covered with some forty Fremontias, which thrived on the arid slope. A count of blooms on those forty bushes was abandoned when it reached 2000. Mr. Marston was particularly proud of them, and the gardeners had strict instructions not to water them without specific instructions. As anyone who has worked with natives will understand, the gardeners, unfamiliar with the desiccated look of such plants during their dormant season, thought they were dying from lack of water. They took turns going back at night to give the Fremontias an extra ration, and delivered their death blow.*

As the site of both the first mission and the first white settlement in California, Presidio Park has religious and historical significance. Perhaps too little recognized, beyond its obvious beauty, is the Park's horticultural importance. CALIFORNIA GARDEN herewith attempts to fill that gap.

By Chauncy I. Jerabek

The San Diego Tree Man



Historical Collection, Union Title Insurance Company, San Diego, Calif.

## OF PRESIDIO PARK

THE plant life of Presidio Park is as interesting in its way, and as rich in history, as the Serra Museum and its contents. I hope that this article will attract the attention not only of adults but of the many boys and girls who visit the Museum. As they cavort and picnic on the grassy slopes and relive history on the walls and ramparts of these acres where California began, may they learn to recognize the scope and beauty of the plant collection in the Park. If those who read this article will pass the information on to friends and neighbors, and to visitors to San Diego, then, like a pebble cast into a pool of water, the circles will grow larger and larger until this beautiful Park is known from coast to coast and throughout the world. That is my hope as I write.

Park your car below the Museum, and with this copy of CALIFORNIA GARDEN as your guide, follow a route roughly clockwise, beginning at the center walk. The low shrubs on each side of the steps are (1) *Raphiolepis umbellata* var. *ovata*, known as Yeddo Hawthorn. These members of the Rose family are native to Japan. Rounded in form with thick, leathery

olive-green foliage, they are covered in spring with pinkish-white flowers, followed by small purple berries.

Now, go up the walk toward the Museum. To the left at the foot of the stairs is a (2) *Chamaerops humilis*, the Hair Palm, a Mediterranean native, and the only palm native to Europe. Although this particular specimen has been trained to a single trunk, this palm is most often seen with numerous offshoots, as you will

notice later in the tour.

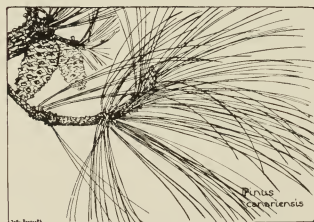
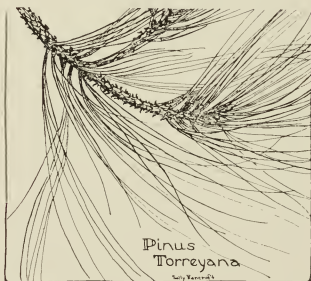
On the right of the stairs is (3) *Heteromeles arbutifolia*, the Toyon or Christmas Berry, native to California and Baja California. Another member of the Rose family, Toyon has dark leathery leaves with sawtooth edges. Flowers are white, borne in dense terminal panicles, and are followed by bright red berries.

The small tree beyond is (4) *Olea europaea*, the wild or common olive from the warm, temperate regions of the Old World. This member of the family Oleaceae is a bushy shrub or small tree with distinctive, dull green foliage, inconspicuous flowers and small fruit.

At the top of the stairs, turn left to the northern parapet. Here is a fine view that commands a sweep to the north and west and reminds one of the military significance of the terrain. Directly below, you will see (5) *Rhus integrifolia*, a Southern and Baja California native which belongs to the Cashew family. The gray-green conifers nearby are (6) *Pinus torreyana*, the famous Torrey Pine of Santa Rosa Island, Torrey Pines Park and the southern portion of Del Mar.

At the northeast corner of the parapet is (7) *Pinus canariensis* or Canary Island Pine. These pines are narrow and symmetrical, with foliage growing in dense tufts at the ends of the branchlets. You will notice many more of them throughout the Park.

On the east side of the Museum,



(Map on page 16)





LEFT TOP: Detail of (8) *Parkinsonia aculeata*, Jerusalem Thorn tree, shows the tracery pattern of leaflets, star-like flowers (yellow), pea-like pods, and sturdy thorns. An early-summer bloomer.

LEFT BOTTOM: Blue, phlox-like flowers with sticky calyxes cover (17) *Plumbago capensis* through most of the year. It is a dense shrub with many long, thin branches; foliage is a medium green.

DRAWINGS BY THE LATE ALFRED C. HOTTES



the small, spreading tree with slender, graceful branches is (8) *Parkinsonia aculeata*. Known as Jerusalem Thorn, this member of the Leguminosae or Pea family is native from Texas and Arizona south to Argentina. In early summer it produces clouds of bright yellow blossoms followed by pea-like pods. The narrow, pyramidal trees nearby, with bluish foliage and flaking bark revealing smooth, red-brown patches, are (9) *Cupressus arizonica*, the Arizona cypress. They are natives of the mountains of central and southern Arizona.

Looking east across the canyon, you will see more olive trees (4). On the hillside and along the canyon bottom are numerous (10) *Phoenix canariensis*, Canary Island Palms, with massive trunks and gracefully arching pinnate leaves. These palms produce large bunches of creamy-white flowers followed by small orange fruit with large pits. Interspersed among them are (11) *Washingtonia robusta* palms (also called *W. gracilis* and *W. sonorae*) from Baja California.

Beside the terrace at the south end of the Museum, you will recognize the sprawling shrubs as (12) *Pyracantha*, another member of the Rose family. Down the slope from the terrace, a single (13) *Phoenix reclinata* is planted in the lawn; others near the foot of the stairs. This is the Senegal Date Palm, native of tropical Africa south to Natal. The dark green arching fronds of this palm make it a popular subject for landscape use. In its native habitat it grows with multiple trunks, but is often seen under cultivation as a single trunk tree. The small edible fruits, date-like in flavor, are orange-brown when ripe.

On each side of the walk are two (14) *Cordyline australis*, known as Cabbage Tree or Lily Palm. These natives of New Zealand, Australia, and the islands of the Pacific are among the largest plants of the Liliaceae, or Lily family. Narrow trunked trees with single stems—or at times, many-branched above the eight foot level—

## "Taking the upper path, you enter the eucalyptus grove . . ."

these plants have rough, furrowed bark and narrow green leaves. To the left of the two cordylines is (15) *Arbutus unedo*, the Strawberry Tree, from Southern Europe and the Levant. This member of the Ericaceae, or Heath family, has thick, dark green, leathery leaves and tiny, white, bell-shaped flowers. The strawberry-like fruit is edible and highly decorative.

As you climb the stairs at the end of the terrace, notice the two (16) *Eucalyptus citriodora* near the end of the building. Called the lemon-scented gum, it comes from the northern and central coasts of Queensland.

Take the path to the left. The low shrubs bordering the path, with numerous long, thin branches are (17) *Plumbago capensis*, of the family Plumbaginaceae from South Africa. Of very dense growth, they are covered through most of the year with phlox-like, baby blue flowers, having short calyxes with sticky hairs. To the right on the knoll are twenty or more Canary Island Pines (7).

Below the walk are a number of young Torrey Pines (16). From the lookout you will see several (18) *Hakea suaveolens*. Known as Pin cushion or Needle Bush, *Hakea* belongs to the Proteaceae and is native to Australia. It is a dense shrub with prickly, needle-like, compound leaves, and fluffy white flowers.

Taking the upper path, you enter the eucalyptus grove where you see first (19) *Eucalyptus robusta*, the swamp gum. These trees have large foliage, dark green and glossy, and rough, dark brown, persistent bark. To the left is a group of another eucalyptus which may possibly be *E. angustifolia*. The slender tree with weeping branches and gray, furrowed bark is (20) *E. crebra*, or Narrowleaf Ironbark. Here also are a number of (21) *E. cladocalyx*, the Sugar Gum. It usually has a straight trunk, leaves dark green above and dull beneath, and flaking bark on the older trees. The tall tree with brownish-red bark, blue-green leaves and a profusion of light pink flowers is (22) *E. sideroxylon*, Ironbark. One of the largest trees in this group is (23) *E. punctata*, Leather-jacket. It has narrow, sickle-shaped leaves and smooth, dark bark which comes off in flakes. Another large tree is (24) *E. rostrata*, River Red Gum, with handsome narrow leaves and generally smooth, gray, deciduous bark. The

spreading, generally lower-growing trees are (25) *E. lehmanni*, the Bushy Yate. It can be recognized either by the handsome bunches of yellow-green flowers or the clusters of hard-wooded seed cases.

At the southwest edge of the eucalyptus grove are several (26) *Ceratonia siliqua*, Carob or St. Johnsbread trees. Belonging to the Pea family and native to the Eastern Mediterranean, they have compound, dark green foliage, inconspicuous flowers, and fruit pods 4-10" or more long.

As you return to the main road under the tunnel of *E. lehmanni* and turn slightly left, (27) *Pittosporum crassifolium*, or Karo, will be on your left. These large shrubs or small trees, members of the Pittosporaceae, have gray foliage and chocolate-colored flowers. In this same section are several (28) *Acacia podalyriaefolia*, the Pearl Acacia, from Queensland. The rich, pearl-gray foliage is set off with fluffy balls of yellow flowers from late fall into mid-winter. Grayish, flat seed pods persist through the summer months.

On your right, between the path and the road, is a planting of another pittosporum, (29) *Pittosporum tobira*. This bushy shrub, with dark green, leathery leaves, and dense, terminal clusters of cream-white flowers, is a native of Japan.

As you turn left and move eastward



A YOUNG specimen of (28) *Acacia podalyriaefolia*, Pearl Acacia, silhouetted against dark green *Eucalyptus lehmanni* (25).

across the lawn, you will notice several (30) *Libocedrus decurrens*, the California Incense Cedar. These trees of the cypress family are native to the mountains of southern Oregon, California, and the northern portion of Baja California. They grow symmetrically, with flattened fans of deep green, aromatic foliage, and cinnamon-brown bark.

Along the wide, road-like path\* (to your left as you follow the marked route) is (31) *Acacia melanoxylon*, the Black Acacia. This is a large, vigorous tree which is sometimes called the tree without leaves; what seem to be leaves are actually phyllodes, or leaf-like extensions of the stems. True leaves are seen only in a young state. These Australian natives are valuable for timber.

Across the wide path from the Black Acacia is (32) *Quercus agrifolia*, Hollyleaf or Coast Live Oak. This native of San Diego County and northern Baja California belongs to the family Fagaceae. A spreading, round-topped tree, it has gray bark, and rich, deep green foliage. There are two small Cork Oaks to the right of the group of Live Oaks.

In the lawn, a group of four (33) *Pinus sabiniana*, Digger Pine, lies roughly at right angles to the route. This pine comes from the dry foothill country of Northern and Central California. Unlike other pines, it tends to develop multiple trunks. Sparse, gray needles, and numerous cones with edible seeds are other recognizable characteristics.

To the left, beyond another clump of *E. lehmanni* (25) is the rare (34) *Acacia aneura*, or Mulga. It has glaucous-gray, narrow foliage, yellow flowers, and numerous flat seed pods. To my knowledge, this is the only tree of its kind in San Diego.

Along the rim of the canyon, near the picnic tables under oaks, are a number of (35) *Spiraea vanhouttei*, Bridal Wreath, a member of the Rose family. This spiraea is a hybrid which bears graceful, arching branches of pure white flowers in spring.

On your left as you continue clockwise is a group of (36) *Schinus terebinthifolia*, Brazilian Pepper, of the Anacardiaceae or Cashew family. These popular evergreen trees, which generally grow fuller in the home garden, have aromatic foliage and clusters of small red berries.

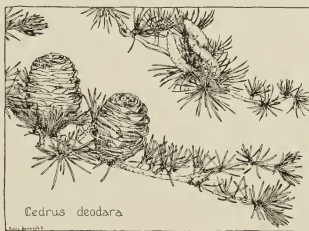
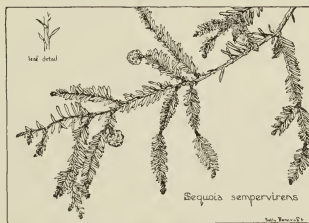
\*Mr. Hoyt recalls that this path was originally a road to provide access for the only property owner who was unwilling to sell his land.—Ed.





BEYOND the sharp curve in Cosoy Way you come to "Taxodium Corner." The tree in the center above is (37) *Taxodium distichum*, Montezuma Bald Cypress. On the up-slope beyond are two varieties of Redwoods. Tree at right is a Deodar Cedar (40).

At the edge of the lawn is a large (37) *Taxodium distichum* var. *mucronatum*, the Montezuma Bald Cypress of Mexico. Pyramidal in shape, with drooping branches and airy foliage, this tree bears small cones which resemble those of the Coast Redwood. Other members of the Taxodiaceae family, the two famous California Redwoods, rarely seen in the San Diego area, are on the hillside behind the Montezuma Bald Cypress. (38) *Sequoiadendron gigantea*, the Sierra Redwood or Big Tree, native to the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada mountains, is said to be the largest-growing tree in the world. The two specimens here show the typical straight trunks, and blue-green foliage arranged in spirals on the branches. Scattered beyond these two are several Coast Redwoods, (39) *Sequoia sempervirens*, indigenous to a stretch of coast from southwestern Oregon to Monterey County in California. It is a symmetrical tree with dark green, fern-



like foliage on graceful, pendulous branches and reddish, thick bark.

Side by side, and in line with the

Montezuma Bald Cypress, are two noteworthy Cedars. The first is (40) *Cedrus deodara* var. *robusta*, of the Pine family, native to northern India and Afghanistan. It is a graceful tree with a pyramidal shape and a nodding leading-shoot. Bluish-green needles cover the branches. The cones, which resemble fir cones, always disintegrate on the trees and fall in sections.

The other cedar is (41) *Cedrus libani* (*libanotica*), the famous Cedar of Lebanon, from Asia Minor and the Lebanon mountains of Syria and Palestine. This is a picturesque tree with horizontal branches, an erect leading-shoot, and dark green needles about an inch long. The barrel-shaped cones, erect on the branches, take two years to reach maturity.

To the right, as you follow the route westward, are two (42) *Bauhinia variegata* var. *candida* (shown in bloom at right in the cover photo), White Orchid or Butterfly Tree. Members of the Pea family, they are natives of India. These medium-sized trees can be recognized by their deeply-notched leaves, and, in early spring, by the glistening white, orchid-like flowers, and the long, narrow seed pods which follow.

Crowding the bauhinias are two (43) *Pinus coulteri*, the Big Cone Pine, found in the mountains of Southern California. This pine bears the largest and heaviest cone of all the pines; each scale is tipped with a claw-like spur. It is a tree of medium size, with long, stiff needles of a pale glaucous green.

Near the end of this path are several (44) *Ceanothus arboreus*, the Island or Tree Lilac. This native of the coastal islands of Southern California belongs to the Rhamnaceae, or Buckthorn family. It is a small tree with broad, dull green ovate leaves. Trusses of light blue flowers cover it in spring. To the left, among the shrubbery on the slope, is (45) *C. cyaneus*, Lakeside Lilac, a native of San Diego County. A shrub of sparse growth, with glossy green foliage and immense spikes of deep blue flowers, it is one of the loveliest of blue-flowering plants.

Bordering the lawn are (46) *Hebe imperialis*, Veronica, of the Figwort family from New Zealand. Thick, rounded leaves, and spikes of deep, wine-red flowers make a fine low hedge. Directly behind, is a taller Veronica, (47) *H. carnea*, with narrower leaves and rosy-pink blooms.

Among the mixed shrubbery in the rear are several (48) *Echium fastuosum*, Pride-of-Madeira, a member of the Borage family, native of Europe and the Canary Islands. They are low-



growing shrubs with hairy, gray foliage, which bear spectacular blue or purple flower spikes in late spring.

Here also is (49) *Calliandra inaequilatera*, Pink Powder Puff (see April-May issue, p. 23), another member of the Pea family, from Trinidad. It is a graceful, spreading shrub, with bipinnate leaves and balls of watermelon-pink flowers composed of numerous long, protruding stamens. Higher up is (50) *Leptospermum laevigatum*, the Tea Tree, of the Myrtle family from Australia. It is a large shrub with fine, gray-green foliage and, in spring, masses of small white flowers. Also on this bank are four (51) *Hymenosporum flavum*, the Sweetshade, from Queensland and New South Wales. A slender, medium-sized tree of the Pittosporum family, it has dark green foliage and sweet-scented, yellow flowers.

Near the end of this crescent-shaped planting is a group of (52) *Thevetia nereifolia*, widely known as Yellow Oleander, but also bearing the names Lucky Nut and Exile Tree. It belongs to the Dogbane family, and comes from South America and the West Indies. A clambering shrub with thick, fleshy, narrow leaves, and showy yellow flowers, it bears large seeds which are often carried as talismans.

The large pines across the drive are (53) *Pinus radiata*, the Monterey Pine from northern California. These spreading trees with rich green needles, usually in bunches of threes, bear long-lasting cones.

Farther west along Cosoy Way, the many broad-headed trees with airy foliage are (54) *Schinus molle*, known as the California Pepper Tree, although it is a native of South America. The female trees produce an abundance of coral-red berries.

On the pergola at the intersection of Cosoy Way and Presidio Drive, the vigorous vine with the sturdy foliage is (55) *Paedranthus buccinatorius*, Blood Trumpet Vine, one of the bignonias from Mexico. It produces large scarlet trumpet-shaped flowers with yellow tubes.

As you walk the length of the pergola, notice overhead the (56) Wisteria, two old-fashioned roses, (57) Belle of Portugal and (58) Cecile Brunner, and the handsome foliage of (59) *Cissus capensis*, an ornamental grape from South Africa. Planted at the left-hand corner of the small building at the end of the pergola is (60) *Bougainvillea* 'Barbara Karst', of the Four-O'Clock family, noted for its showy bracts of bright crimson. To the left of the building is (61) *Duranta*

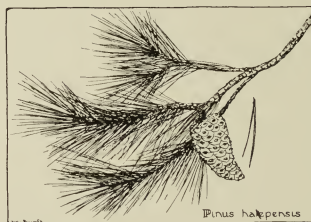


A COMMANDING tree at the upper entrance to the Park is (62) *Pinus halepensis*, Aleppo Pine. This open, round-topped tree has gray-green needles in tufts near the ends of the branches. See the detail drawing of foliage and cone below.

*repens*, Golden Dewdrop or Skyflower. This large, arching shrub belongs to the Verbena family, and comes from the West Indies and Mexico. It bears attractive racemes of deep blue flowers and golden berries, often present at the same time.

As you turn to the right along the lawn, you will notice a magnificent large pine near the right-hand edge of Presidio Drive. This is (62) *Pinus halepensis*, the Aleppo Pine. Its range is the Mediterranean from Portugal to Palestine. No temple of ancient Greece was considered complete without an Aleppo Pine beside it. The gray-green needles appear in tufts at the ends of the branches.

Across the drive, the large mound is covered with dark, low, round-headed (63) *Pinus pinea*, commonly called Stone, Parasol, Umbrella, or Mop-head Pine. It is native to southern Europe and Asia Minor. Turn half-left under these trees and follow the route southwest to the edge of the



bank. Here is a massive tree with pale green, pendulous foliage, and bark hanging from its trunk. It is (64) *Eucalyptus viminalis*, the White, Manna, or Ribbon Gum.

Turning right and following the bank, you will come to a somewhat stunted-looking tree with attractive, fern-like leaves and reddish bark. This rare and tender tree is (65) *Lyonothamnus floribundus* var. *asplenifolius*, Catalina Ironwood\*, a member

\*Used by Mr. Hoyt in the landscaping of Mission Valley Center in three raised planters along the Mall.—Ed.

of the Rose family, and a native of the Southern California coastal islands. Large flat-topped clusters of tiny white blossoms appear in summer.

Farther along the path is (66) *Eucalyptus rudis*, Flooded Gum, a medium-sized tree of drooping habit with thin, rounded, gray-green leaves. The huge tree nearby is (67) *E. globulus*, Blue or Fever Gum. It has large blue-green leaves and smooth bark, peeling in ribbons. White flowers are followed by large, flat-topped seed capsules.

Turn right and clamber up the steep bank to the flagpole as best you can. Along the original trenches of old Fort Stockton, you will notice a number of (68) *Aloe arborescens*, a handsome shrubby succulent with many branches. It belongs to the Lily family, and comes from South Africa.

At the front of the old cannon, with its commanding view of the approaches to San Diego Bay, is (69) an *Aloe ciliaris*, Lily family from the Cape of Good Hope, a scrambling, succulent vine with orange-red, fire-cracker-like flowers. (If planted in good soil near the sea, the stems will grow to 20' long.)

Beyond the granite monument, follow a path between the large eucalyptus and the olive onto the lawn. Near the pathway leading to the stone steps are several (70) *Rosmarinus officinalis*, Rosemary, of the Mint family from the Mediterranean region. These are small shrubs about three feet in height, with aromatic foliage and pale blue flowers.

About ten feet to the rear toward Presidio Drive are two (71) *Osteomeles anthyllidifolia*, sometimes called Uhi-Uhi, of the Rose family from the South Pacific and Hawaii. Delicate evergreen shrubs, with many pairs of dainty gray-green leaves, they bear tiny five-petal, white flowers, followed by small, globose, bluish-black fruit looking like miniature rose hips.

At the right hand side of the large concrete settee are a number of myrtus, and a group of conifers. The low, spreading conifers are (72) *Juniperus chinensis* var. *pfitzeriana*, of the cypress family, from eastern Asia. The large, globular one is (73) *Thuja orientalis* var. *Rosedalis*, a sport of the oriental arborvitae having a juvenile-type foliage.

Down the grassy slope to the north is a beautiful *Eucalyptus citriodora* (16), and two (74) *Lagunaria patersoni*, the Primrose or Cow Itch Tree, of the Mallow family from the South Pacific Islands and Australia. They are slender, shapely trees with olive-green foliage and small, hibiscus-like, laven-

der-pink flowers. The leaves cause itching on contact with the skin.

Turning left and following the trail, you will notice four shrubs of (75) *Osmanthus ilicifolia*, False Holly, a Japanese native of the Olive family. *Osmanthus* differs from true holly in having opposite instead of alternate leaves. Next is (76) *Prunus ilicifolia*, Hollyleaf Cherry, a member of the Rose family, native to Southern California. It has rich, deep green, holly-like foliage, sprays of white flowers, and edible fruit in abundance.

Continuing down the slope along the edge of the lawn, you will see a large planting of (77) *Melaleuca armillaris*, Bracelet Bottle Brush. Australian natives of the Myrtle family, they are large, bushy shrubs with slender, drooping branches, and white flowers in cylindrical spikes.

After passing more *Eucalyptus rudis* (66), you will come to several (78) *E. ficifolia*, the Scarlet-flowering Gum, more often called simply Flowering Eucalyptus. These medium-sized trees with dark green foliage are ablaze with fuzzy scarlet blossoms throughout the summer. From seed, they do not come true to color, but may be white, apple-blossom pink, or vermilion. The urn-shaped fruit is thick and woody.

Across the lawn to the right, the bushy plants in the foreground are (79) *Acacia armata*, Kangaroo Thorn, from an island off the coast of southern Australia. The leaves are

small, and the branches very thorny. Deep yellow flowers are followed by curly seed pods. In the same planting, the small trees with the light green, graceful, willowy foliage are (80) *Pittosporum phylliraeoides*, sometimes called Willow or Narrow-leaf Pittosporum. The yellow flowers, small and fragrant, are followed by quaint yellow berries.

Among the trees most frequently noticed by people driving through the Park are the (81) *Acacia pendula* at the edge of this planting next to Presidio Drive. They are also called Weeping or True Myall, and come from Queensland and New South Wales. Reaching almost to the ground are pendulous branches, resembling those of a weeping willow. Leaves are narrow and light gray; flowers come in small clusters along the branches, followed by flat seed pods. These specimens are exceedingly beautiful the year round.

Turn left at the path along the south side of the parking lot. To the right are several flowering peach trees and some good specimens of *Chamaerops humilis* (2) growing naturally. To the left, almost hidden in the planting, are three small (82) *Callistris robusta*, the Cypress Pine from West Australia. Upright trees of compact habit, they have light green, scale-like foliage, and bear clusters of cones. Nearby are several (83) *Phillyrea latifolia* var. *media*, members of the Olive family from southeastern Europe and Asia Minor. They are evergreen shrubs with ovate, dark green leaves and small, blue-black fruit.

To the left, near the southeast corner of the small, polygonal building, are two (84) *Cupressus sempervirens* var. *stricta*, Italian Cypress, from southern Europe and western Asia. These tall, columnar trees are used for formal planting effects. The ancient Greeks carved statues of their gods from the wood of this cypress.

The planting along the west side of the parking lot is (85) *Hibiscus rosasinensis* 'Crown of Bohemia'. The many varieties of hibiscus, widely cultivated throughout the tropics and subtropics, belong to the Mallow family, and come from Asia. 'Crown of Bohemia' has beautiful, deep green foliage and double flowers of a rich gold.

On the downhill side of the small building is (86) *Yucca elephantipes*, from southeast Mexico and Guatemala, one of the largest plants of the Lily family. A bold, stiff-leaved plant, it bears flowers in large, dense panicles and clusters of date-like fruit. Beyond



*E. ficifolia*



the yucca you will notice additional plantings of *Phoenix reclinata* (13) and *P. canariensis* (10).

To your right, as you follow the path along the length of the parking lot, are a number of (87) *Salvia greggi*, of the Mint family, from Texas and Mexico. These low bushy plants with dark green foliage bear deep red flowers. Near the wall are several (88) *Solanum rantonetti*, purple-flowering vines of the Nightshade family (the potato and the eggplant belong to the same group) from Paraguay and Argentina.

Turn left and walk over to the Serra Cross. The two palms nearby are (89) *Phoenix dactylifera*, the common date palm of North Africa. Upright specimens with blue-green, stiff pinnate leaves, they produce many suckers and grow in clumps if left to themselves. Because of insufficient heat, they do not produce good fruit here, but in the Coachella Valley of Southern California, they yield some of the finest dates in the world. There are many references to this palm in the Bible.

Continue westward down the slope to the group of palms along the drive. Here are several *Chamaerops humilis* (2) and one (90) *Erythea edulis*, the Guadalupe Palm from Guadalupe Island off the coast of Baja California. One of the handsomest of the palmate palms, its large leaves, a rich, light green in color, are borne on long stalks. It produces heavy bunches of shiny, black-skinned seeds. The attractive ground cover plant between the palms and the road is prostrate *Carrisa grandiflora*, Natal plum.

Cross the drive at the pedestrian cross walk, and go down the dirt path beyond the opening in the wall. On your right as you approach the bottom is a planting of (91) *Bromelia balansae*, Heart of Flame, members of the Pineapple family from Argentina and south-central Brazil. These stemless, suckering plants have recurved leaves, 2-3' long, which are prickly at the edges. The inner leaf, turning a fiery violet-red at the time of flowering, is more spectacular than the bloom.

Nearby are several agaves and a (92) *Persea indica*, miniature avocado. This member of the Laurel family, from the Canary, Azores and Madeira Islands, has large, leathery leaves, which are smooth, and small flowers followed by tiny, avocado-like fruit. Next to the Persea is an interesting plant, (93) *Euphorbia tirucalli*, Milk Bush, from tropical Africa. This small shrub is a mass of cylindrical, pencil-like, succulent branches.



THIS GROUP OF (81) *Acacia pendula*, across Presidio Drive from the Serra Museum, is one of the most picturesque plantings in the Park. The narrow leaves are light gray.

In the middle of the lower lawn is (94) *Ulmus parvifolia* var. *sempervirens*, the Evergreen Elm, from China and Japan. An open-headed tree with small, firm leaves, it blooms in late summer or early fall.

To your left as you face the Grotto is another Carob tree (26), and beyond it, a group of (95) *Grevillea robusta*, the Silk Oak, belonging to the Proteaceae, from Queensland and Australia. Upright trees with spreading heads of fern-like foliage, Silk Oaks produce large trusses of orange-yellow flowers profusely in early spring.

Cross the lawn northwestward toward Taylor St. (you will recognize it by the heavy traffic). The large shrubby plant with nearly round leaves is (96) *Dombeya wallichii*. It is a member of the Chocolate family from Madagascar, and makes an attractive shrub or small tree, especially in spring when the showy balls of pink flowers are fresh.

To the right of the Dombeya is a tree with light-colored papery bark. It is (97) *Melaleuca leucadendron*, Broad-leaf Paperbark or Cajuput Tree, which belongs to the Myrtle family and comes from Queensland and New South Wales. The tree is covered with small, pointed, rigid leaves. Its cream-colored flowers, shaped like bottle brushes, give way to woody seed capsules.

Nearby are two (98) *Arecastrum romanzoffianum*, the familiar *Cocos*

*plumosa* or Queen palm which is so plentiful in San Diego.

Return up the hill by way of the left path at the edge of the bank, and continue back to the drive and across the lawn toward the Indian statue. In the extensive cactus planting behind the statue is a large specimen of *Yucca elephantipes* (86), and to the right are two (99) *Y. brevifolia*. This is the famous Joshua tree, belonging to the Lily family, a native of the deserts of southern Utah, Nevada and California. The small, grotesque trunk sends off a few angular, clumsy branches with olive-green, dagger-like leaves. White flowers appear at the ends of the branches.

Farther up the hill is a single (100) *Eugenia uniflora*, Surinam Cherry. A member of the Myrtle family, it is indigenous to Brazil. The small leaves are deep green in summer and bronzy during the cooler months. The edible fruit is scarlet, like a small tomato, but with eight, deep longitudinal grooves. Clambering over the wall at the left is (101) *Ficus pumila*, Creeping Fig, of the Mulberry family, native to China, Japan and Australia. The leaves are creeping stems which cling to whatever they touch.

The last trees on your left as you return to the parking lot are *Melaleuca leucadendron* (97). If you are interested in the names of other plants in the Park, see one of the courteous Park employees. He will be glad to answer your questions.



CAMINO DEL RIO

SERRA MUSEUM

START

Parking

Palm Group

PINE GROVE

PRESIDIO

DINE

Eucalyptus Grove

Picnic Area

THE GROTTO

CHESTNUT STREET

JACKSON ST.

## KEY

- picnic table
- ⦿ fireplace
- ⊙ drinking fountain
- ⊙ statue
- ⊙ restrooms
- Rose - Silver Moon
- wall

# Presidio Park

Route and Planting Map Keyed to the Text

Drawn for California Garden by Alice M. Clark



- (1) *Rapbiolepis umbellata* var. *ovata*
- (2) *Chamaerops humilis*
- (3) *Heteromeles arbutifolia*
- (4) *Olea europaea*
- (5) *Rhus integrifolia*
- (6) *Pinus torreyana*
- (7) *Pinus canariensis*
- (8) *Parkinsonia aculeata*
- (9) *Cupressus arizonica*
- (10) *Phoenix canariensis*
- (11) *Washingtonia robusta*
- (12) *Pyracantha*
- (13) *Phoenix reclinata*
- (14) *Cordyline australis*
- (15) *Arbutus unedo*
- (16) *Eucalyptus citriodora*
- (17) *Plumbago capensis*
- (18) *Hakea suaveolens*
- (19) *Eucalyptus robusta*
- (20) *E. creba*
- (21) *E. cladocalyx*
- (22) *E. sideroxylon*
- (23) *E. punctata*
- (24) *E. rostrata*
- (25) *E. lehmanni*
- (26) *Ceratonia siliqua*
- (27) *Pittosporum crassifolium*
- (28) *Acacia podalyriaefolia*
- (29) *Pittosporum tobira*
- (30) *Libocedrus decurrens*
- (31) *Acacia melanoxylon*
- (32) *Quercus agrifolia*
- (33) *Pinus sabiniana*
- (34) *Acacia aneura*
- (35) *Spiraea vanhouttei*
- (36) *Schinus terebinthifolia*
- (37) *Taxodium distichum* var. *mucronatum*
- (38) *Sequoiadendron gigantea*
- (39) *Sequoia sempervirens*
- (40) *Cedrus deodara* var. *robusta*
- (41) *Cedrus libani* (*libanotica*)
- (42) *Bauhinia variegata* var. *candida*
- (43) *Pinus coulteri*
- (44) *Ceanothus arboreus*
- (45) *C. cyaneus*
- (46) *Hebe imperialis*
- (47) *H. carnea*
- (48) *Ecbium fastuosum*
- (49) *Calliandra inaequilatera*
- (50) *Leptospermum laevigatum*
- (51) *Hymenoporus flavum*
- (52) *Theretia nereifolia*
- (53) *Pinus radiata*
- (54) *Schinus molle*
- (55) *Phaederanthus buccinatorius*
- (56) *Wisteria*
- (57) *Rose, Belle of Portugal*
- (58) *Rose, Cecile Brunner*
- (59) *Cissus capensis*
- (60) *Bougainvillea 'Barbara Karst'*
- (61) *Duranta repens*
- (62) *Pinus halepensis*
- (63) *Pinus pinea*
- (64) *Eucalyptus viminalis*
- (65) *Lyonotamnus floribundus* var. *asplenifolius*
- (66) *Eucalyptus rudis*
- (67) *E. globulus*
- (68) *Aloe arborescens*
- (69) *Aloe ciliaris*
- (70) *Rosmarinus officinalis*
- (71) *Osteomeles anthyllidifolia*
- (72) *Juniperus chinensis* var. *pfitzeriana*
- (73) *Thuja orientalis* var. *Rosedalis*
- (74) *Lagunaria patersoni*
- (75) *Osmantbus ilicifolia*
- (76) *Prunus ilicifolia*
- (77) *Melaleuca armillaris*
- (78) *Eucalyptus ficifolia*
- (79) *Acacia armata*
- (80) *Pittosporum phylliraeoides*
- (81) *Acacia pendula*
- (82) *Callistris robusta*
- (83) *Phillyrea latifolia* var. *media*
- (84) *Cupressus sempervirens* var. *stricta*
- (85) *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis* 'Crown of Bohemia'
- (86) *Yucca elephantipes*
- (87) *Salvia greggi*
- (88) *Solanum rantonetti*
- (89) *Phoenix dactylifera*
- (90) *Erythea edulis*
- (91) *Bromelia balansae*
- (92) *Persea indica*
- (93) *Euphorbia tirucalli*
- (94) *Ulmus parvifolia* var. *sempervirens*
- (95) *Grevillea robusta*
- (96) *Dombeya wallichii*
- (97) *Melaleuca leucadendron*
- (98) *Arecastrum romanzoffianum*
- (99) *Yucca brevifolia*
- (100) *Eugenia uniflora*
- (101) *Ficus pumila*

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Miller are no strangers to readers of CALIFORNIA GARDEN, nor to anyone who has followed local flower shows. Here, Alice Miller raises the question . . .

## Are You Ready for Rhododendrons?

GARDENERS who have been thrilled by the beauty of rhododendrons in the Northwest are apt to return to Southern California nagged by the question, "Will they grow here?" The answer may depend on the type of gardener you are, but put most simply, it is "Yes." Local nurseries are showing varieties of this most beautiful shrub which should tolerate the conditions of San Diego County and offer a good chance for at least ten years enjoyment.

Which variety should you choose? There are many factors to consider. Flowers come in a wide range of colors—white, white with markings, yellow, cream, pink, red, lavender and purple. Trusses vary in both size and form. The shrub itself may range from the dwarf, rock-type, which grows to two or three feet high, to the *Rhododendron arboreum*, which reaches thirty or forty feet. In other parts of the world, we might even fail to recognize rhododendrons except by the flowers: some bear leaves a foot long and of comparable width, while others have round leaves resembling the dollar eucalyptus in texture, form and size. But perhaps the primary factor to consider is adaptability to local conditions.

A number of years ago, Julius Nuccio of Nuccio Brothers Nursery, Altadena, in answer to inquiries concerning the wisdom of trying rhododendrons in Southern California, agreed to work with northern nurserymen in choosing the varieties most likely to accept our semi-arid climate. Customer gardeners were asked to report their experiences with the selected varieties as to sun and temperature tolerance, bud set, and light and humidity requirements. From these reports came the assurance that rhododendrons can be grown success-

fully by amateurs in Southern California, and recommendations as to the varieties most likely to succeed.

As the most tolerant rhododendron for these conditions, Mr. Nuccio suggests Annah Kruschke, a rosy lavender. Other varieties that have proved satisfactory are Jean Marie Montague, Eureka Maid, Cynthia, and Saffron Queen.

At the Walter Andersen Nursery in San Diego last March, both Annah Kruschke and Lord Roberts were in flower. According to Ada Perry, Andersen's is apt to have rhododendrons in bloom from December through May. She strongly recommends pot or tub culture, using two-thirds planter mix and one-third sand, and feeding with Terr-O-Vite three times each year between May and August. A word of caution from Andersen's: never allow the plant to dry out.

Mr. Nuccio suggests a location, planting mixture, and irrigation similar to that provided for azaleas, with additional moisture on the foliage as in camellia culture. He favors three feedings a year beginning in August, using Cottonseed meal, Camellia Grow, or some similar product. He advises tipping out the non-flower buds for dense, compact growth, and cutting off old flower heads to shape the plants.

MOST of the rhododendrons available today are hybrids, many of them grafted onto hardy root stock for faster growth and stronger root systems. One of the aims of hybridizers is to develop hybrids with the qualities necessary to withstand the dry air, sunny days and alkaline water of Southern California. Grafted plants require watchfulness on the part of the gardener, since growth from the understock, if allowed to continue, will

take strength from the plant and become dominant. Such growth should be cut away as soon as detected. If you are unfamiliar with the appearance of graft unions, inquire at the time of purchase whether the rhododendron is on its own roots, or is a grafted plant.

Apparently the amount of light is an important factor in successful growth. Many species seem to suffer if they do not have periods of gray weather and high humidity. Such conditions are difficult to achieve in our local gardens, but care should be taken to supply such an environment as nearly as possible. In Scotland, where rhododendrons grow to the size of large orange trees, they show remarkable tolerance of extreme cold and strong winds, but humidity there is high.

In the foothills southeast of El Cajon, we have been growing rhododendrons for twenty years. Our first plant was eight inches tall, probably a pontican seedling. We planted it about six feet from a California Live Oak, which was only slightly older but grew much more rapidly. Soon the rhododendron was benefiting from the oak's filtered shade, as well as from the mulch of oak leaves; in twenty years it reached a height of ten feet with an equal spread. Last fall, this apparently healthy plant died for no apparent reason; perhaps the faster growing, more vigorous oak caused root strangulation—no one has suggested a more satisfactory reason. Nevertheless, during those twenty years, that one bush provided flower trusses and branches for tables and banquets, flower show exhibits and horticultural displays, and gave color and beauty to the garden.

When this pontican seedling had



been in the ground for five years, we received a very choice tub plant, a Pink Pearl rhododendron. Since it had been hot-house grown and forced into early flower, we left it in the container for a few years. When we planted it out in the garden, we chose an area between a Deodar Cedar and the open side of a lath house at a level above the lawn, seeking a location as cool and as humid as possible, sheltered from hot winds, yet at a level for good drainage and open enough for sufficient light for flower-bud set. The planting medium was the same mixture as that used for azaleas: one-third compost, one-third decaying wood shavings, and one-third river sand. For twelve years now, this Pink Pearl has been most rewarding. The unfolding flowers, dark at first and growing lighter as the florets open fully, are a delight.

Our next venture was the rhododendron variety native to California and Oregon. It has grown well, but has not yet bloomed. Alice, a deeper pink than Pink Pearl, and Eureka Maid, similar in color to Alice but with entirely different trusses, have grown well and flowered profusely. Of the three pink varieties, Eureka Maid is the last to bloom (late May), and it is lovely! A yellow variety, recommended as being sun-tolerant, has shown some tendency to leaf-burn. Others added to the collection include flowers of purple to lavender, and a deep, deep red. Fragrantissima, with large, creamy-white, delightfully fragrant flowers, is a choice plant for an espalier or trellis.

THE similarity of some rhododendrons to azaleas is worth noting. In Scotland, England, New Zealand and other areas where the rhododendron is at home, gardeners have long recognized their relationship. When we toured the Scottish Lochs with a group of expert growers, we found that all rhododendrons and azaleas were referred to as rhododendrons. This eventually led to a question concerning the difference between the two, and the answer, given in all seriousness, was that the difference lay in the number of hairs on the backs of the leaves. Other authorities, however, point out the difference in flower form, azaleas with funnel-form flowers and rhododendrons with bell-shaped flowers, although this difference is not constant.

For most of us, the importance of this relationship lies in gardening practices. Methods already found suc-

cessful with azaleas should be applied to the less tried culture of rhododendrons. Both of them have a constant need for deep, moist, well-rotted acid humus mulch.

Those of you wishing to see rhododendrons in magnificent profusion should visit Golden Gate Park in San Francisco, the Huntington Gardens in San Marino, or Descanso Gardens in La Canada. Probably the most notable collection in the world is just now becoming established in New Zealand, where growing conditions are ideal. Every possible species and variety of rhododendron, including azaleas, is being planted there. The planners expect some variety to be in bloom every month of the year.

The American Rhododendron Society, with several chapters, maintains a trial garden in Oregon, and presents an annual show in Tacoma, Wash.

During eleven months of the year, a rhododendron is merely a good-looking shrub. For most growers, it's the twelfth month that counts. If you choose your varieties carefully, give thoughtful attention to location, watering and feeding, you can reap a reward of spectacular flowers, a delight to behold in late spring—yes, even in Southern California.

## 50 YEARS AGO in CALIFORNIA GARDEN

Marion J. Robinson, June, 1911. A keen pleasure may be taken in having a tiny nursery of small gift plants and as the admiring guest raves over one of your successes present him with a little pot of the same variety and let him hold the parent plant as an ideal for it to grow and develop into.

Alfred D. Robinson, July, 1911. If History teaches anything in the formative growth of a city it is that improvements and conveniences for a large city should be made while it, the city, is comparatively small.

Fanny L. Ryan, July, 1911. If I want my garden to be beautiful I must make up my mind to work hard in it continually here in California. In other parts of the United States where vegetation is dormant for half the year . . . , gardeners can take a rest during that period. But we have to go on forever in this land of perpetual spring.

Nature is methodical, and doeth her work well. Time is never to be hurried.—Emerson.

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# BOOK TOURS

Conducted by Alice W. Heyneman

## *Orchids, Their Botany and Culture.*

By Alex D. Hawkes. Harper and  
Brothers, New York, 1961. \$6.95.

During the past twenty years there  
has been a marked increase in the grow-  
ing of orchids by hobbyists. Many  
books have appeared, all purporting  
to make orchid growing as easy as nas-  
turtiums. Most of them have fallen  
short in one of two ways: either the  
author assumes that the reader knows  
almost as much about orchids as he  
does, and therefore spends whole pages  
and chapters in exploring remote cul-  
tural areas which the amateur is not  
likely to encounter, or he goes to the  
other extreme, assumes that the ama-  
teur knows absolutely nothing about  
orchids, and wastes a great deal of his  
book "talking down" to the reader.  
Neither approach is ideal, and both  
have left the grower with some little  
knowledge of what he is doing out in  
the cold.

Now comes a new book, *Orchids,  
Their Botany and Culture*, by Alex D.  
Hawkes, which goes to neither extreme  
but carefully follows a path down the  
middle. The author has over twenty  
years experience in orchids, and has  
published more than 2000 papers on  
the subject. He writes primarily for the  
hobbyist whose knowledge, though  
meager, is not non-existent, but he in-  
cludes thirty-five pages of basic infor-  
mation slanted toward the neophyte,  
and about the same number of pages on  
the more technical aspects of genetics  
and hybridization. We end up, there-  
fore, with a book that proves interest-  
ing and challenging, never boring, to  
the average reader. Such a book fills a  
long felt need.

The layout itself is a marvel of crea-  
tive thinking. In orderly progression,  
the text explains what orchids are,  
where they come from, how they are  
grown and how they are cross-bred. Sec-  
tions are devoted to a listing of orchids  
recommended for the beginner, and to  
a summary of those that are principally  
cultivated by the more advanced  
hobbyist.

Mr. Hawkes avoids as far as possible  
the use of technical language in his  
text. Where required for concise mean-  
ing, technical words and phrases are  
used, but a complete glossary is includ-

ed at the back of the book. Special men-  
tion should be made of the fact that  
generic names are defined, and proper  
pronunciations given, as they are met  
with in the text.

The author's style is clear and con-  
cise, his choice of material, both writ-  
ten and pictorial, is excellent, and the  
presentation above criticism. It seems  
probable that *Orchids, Their Botany  
and Culture* will be the reference work  
most often consulted in many orchid  
libraries, including this reviewer's.

Reviewed by Byron Geer

One new book and two revised edi-  
tions have been added to the Sunset  
Library.

*Vegetable Gardening.* Lane Book Co.,  
Menlo Park, California, 1961. 72  
pages. \$1.50.

Vegetables, from seed to serving, are  
covered in Sunset's attractive new entry,  
*Vegetable Gardening*. How to fit vege-  
tables into the small garden, how to  
seed, water, fertilize, cook, freeze, and  
serve are among the subjects treated.  
The comprehensive, descriptive listing,  
including unusual varieties, makes a  
mouth-watering case for home produc-  
tion.

*Sunset Western Garden Book*, Re-  
vised Edition. Lane Book Co., Menlo  
Park, California, 1961. 384 pages.  
\$3.95 and \$4.95 (gift binding).

The 1961 edition of the Western  
Garden Book includes new material on  
soil, insecticides, weed killers, compost-  
ing, lawns, container gardening, roses,  
and succulents. The encyclopedias of  
annuals, perennials, bulbs, vines,  
ground covers, natives, trees and shrubs  
make this reference book invaluable.

*Sunset Patio Book*, Revised Edition.  
Lane Book Co., Menlo Park, Califor-  
nia, 1961. 166 pages. \$2.

Ideas for planning or improving the  
patio are contained in the new edition  
of the *Sunset Patio Book*, which in-  
cludes several all-new chapters and 120  
new photographs. The subject is cov-  
ered from the ground up, from paving  
to shelter, with several intriguing solu-  
tions to heat problems (both adding  
and subtracting), and ideas for achiev-  
ing patios in improbable settings such  
as roof tops and hillsides.

**Pelargoniums, Including the Popular Geranium.** By Derek Clifford. Blandford Press, London, 1958. 299 pages. 42 shillings (\$5.88)

Derek Clifford, says his publisher, is well qualified to be the author of this book, since he grows "what is perhaps the most comprehensive collection of pelargonium species in the world." Being a deep student of his subject, he also dislikes loose terminology, and uses throughout the book the terms Zonal and Regal pelargoniums to describe what we more casually call Geraniums and Pelargoniums.

The first 70 pages deal with the subject agreeably from the gardener's point of view: cultural procedures (in England mostly in greenhouses), propagation, pests, simple divisions of species. A chapter titled "The Pelargonium's Natural Virtues," owing no doubt to the author's erudition, is a bit more technical than it should be for comfortable armchair reading.

After page 81, the book is frankly for the specialist. This is acknowledged in the introduction: "Although this book aims to be all things to all men, it is, of course, not really a book to be read but one to be referred to." Part II consists of lists, and Part III of a discussion of species, of which there are an appalling number.

As to names, the problem is great. There were a thousand different pelargonium varieties in one nurseryman's list in the 1870's, and Mr. Clifford despairs of uniformity even today. "A plant name may be changed in a country other than that of its origin . . . it should not be, but it is."

The lists, therefore, and the discussion of species, may be skipped by those not technically-minded. The plates in the volume are a different matter: they are superb. Many are in brilliant color, and the flowers depicted are utterly breath-taking. They suggest that—greenhouse or not—English pelargoniums can compete in splendor with the finest anywhere. And I mean anywhere! (A.W.H.)

Wine producing ranks first in California today in capital investment among horticulture crops. Ninety percent of the domestic wine of the United States is produced in California.

The California wine industry dates back to the Franciscan missionaries. Father Serra planted cuttings of the vine we know as the Mission grape at Mission San Diego in 1770. The vines prospered but the wine was harsh.

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## MAHONIA

FOR line and form, *Mahonia lomariifolia* is a choice garden plant. The leaves, similar in shape to the thistle of Scottish lore, measure about 2" across and up to 12" long. They radiate horizontally from a slender trunk. The thick leaflets end in sharp spines, and the punctuation written on the gardener's skin is reason enough to keep the plant out of the traffic pattern!

The deep green foliage takes on bronzy accents during winter months. In early spring, clusters of sulphur-yellow flowers appear in generous, erect spikes, followed by smoky-blue berries, which last well both in color and in opposition to the birds.

Under favorable conditions (a light, porous soil and partial shade), this mahonia reaches 6-8' in height. To thicken the clump, cut it to the ground when reasonably dormant. For the covering-off effect of foliage against the canes, it is well to encourage various heights of stem in this operation.

Its bold and incisive leaf pattern and good green color have brought *Mahonia lomariifolia* into favor with landscape architects, especially for use with houses of contemporary design. It is striking against natural wood, masonry, and the neutral shades of plaster so much in vogue today. It makes a fairly good tub plant.

\*Member ASLA, author of *Ornamental Plants for Subtropical Regions*.

# A Calendar of

## ● AFRICAN VIOLETS

GROWING *Saintpaulias* or African Violets can be a very rewarding hobby. In return for regular feeding and watering they will produce beautiful foliage and a profusion of blooms.

Filtered sunlight is the most important requirement. In a sunny spot, free from drafts, where sunlight is filtered through glass curtains or is controllable by means of Venetian blinds, the plants should prosper. Violets that are getting too much sun will have a faded look. As the days get warmer in spring and summer, give them protection from the hot rays of the sun. Violets do best in a temperature of about 60° at night and 70° in the daytime. When the thermometer drops much below 60° it is too cold.

Thorough watering, best done from the bottom, is important. Let the pot of violets sit in a dish of water until the leaf mold at the top feels moist to the touch. Sodium from city water will collect in the potting mix; flush it out once a month by pouring plenty of warm water through the pot. Those who have saved rain water or have bottled spring water available will not have to be concerned.

In pouring water into the top of the pot, take care not to get any on the crown of the plant, since it may cause rot. To prevent blemishes, wipe off any water that falls on the leaves before the sun touches them.

Frequency of watering depends on the weather. Along the coast in warm weather, twice a week is usually enough. Inland, where the thermometer goes higher and humidity is lower, more frequent watering will be necessary. To keep moisture around your plants when the atmosphere is hot and

## Care

dry, place a two-inch layer of gravel in a flower bowl, set the violet pot on the gravel and pour water into the bowl, but not enough to touch the bottom of the pot.

During cool weather, watering once in ten days may be sufficient. Put a finger in the leaf mold to find out how much moisture is present. Soil should be moist; never soggy-wet. Allowing the pot to stand in water, over-watering, or keeping the leaf mold or potting mixture too wet may result in root rot and the loss of a plant.

Violets need to be fed regularly once a month, one formula for young plants, another for those that are blooming or ready to bloom. Use a liquid fertilizer, formula 10-10-5 for promoting the growth of stems and leaves, and formula 0-10-10 for promoting bloom.

Keep seed pods picked off so that the plant will continue to bloom. Watch for decomposing leaves and remove them. When a stem rests on the rim of the pot it will draw moisture and become water logged. A collar of foil or transparent tape placed around the pot, or a coating of paraffin on the pot rim, protects both stems and leaves.

A word about pests—aphids and

mealybugs both like violets and will leave other plants for them. Inspect all plants or flowers before bringing them into the house to save having to spray your violets.

As to soil, I have tried most of the many potting mixtures for violets, but have achieved the best results with oak leaf mold.

New plants can be started by placing leaves in water or moist leaf mold. Select healthy, mature leaves with stems about two inches long. Beginners may find it interesting to watch leaves placed in water. Roots appear in about a month, followed, a month or so later, by leaves just above the roots. In planting, cover the roots, but do not bury the leaves. Give the large leaf some support, such as a piece of slender plant stake or plant marker. Leaves started in leaf mold are easier to keep in a pot than those rooted in water, since the roots will have spread into the soil.

Hazel C. McBride

## • CAMELLIAS

THE requirements of camellias during June and July are two—lots of water and a little fertilizer.

Presumably you have used a well prepared, perfectly drained soil, rich in humus, either in tubs or planting beds. For these hot months coming up, be sure that plant roots are protected by at least three inches of mulch, and never let the root area dry out. Lack of water will cause buds to die and drop off as quickly as they are formed. Sprinkle foliage occasionally, but only very early in the morning or after sundown. The leaves are beautiful and tender; they do not react favorably to the rapid evaporation of water during mid-day.

Your schedule for applying fertilizer should have been established earlier this season at four or six week intervals, depending on whether you use tubs or planting beds, and should be continued through June and July. The growth period for camellias, especially the early bloomers, should be approaching its end, even in this unpredictable, rainless year. That's the time to switch from quick-acting, liquid fertilizers to slow-acting solids, such as cottonseed meal or bone meal, for healthy bud development for next season's blooms.

Watch for pests on this year's new growth. An all-purpose, residual spray will end your problems quickly.

After a thorough spraying, omit sprinkling the foliage for two or three days.

Thos. L. Crist

## • ROSES

HAVEN'T San Diego's roses been outstanding this year? It is our hope that each of you won at least one ribbon at the highly successful National Rose Show in April, and that you had at least a peek at our distinguished guest from England, Mr. Harry Wheatcroft.

After such a heavy-blooming spring, your roses will need a good boost in the form of extra nitrogen to bring on a repeat performance of blooms without chlorosis or yellowing leaves. Also, the mulch which you applied in January has been breaking down gradually and combining with the top soil. With hot, dry weather ahead it will be to your advantage to add a second layer about two inches thick. Organic material such as steer manure and bean straw are most beneficial, but sawdust or wood shavings may be used if you add sufficient nitrogen to replace that which the shavings absorb as they break down. Your nurseryman can advise you about this.

Thrips and red spider mites arrive with the heat of summer. They prefer weeds and wild growth, but migrate to roses and other lush garden growth when the weeds dry up. Thrips are the more difficult to control. There is an insecticide made by an Eastern Company which contains malathion, kelthane, lindane and rotenone and is said to form a gas when applied.\* This gas seeps between the petals of a just-opening rose and destroys the thrips before they can do too much damage, or multiply. There are miticides on the market for red spider control. Before applying any insecticide, be very sure to water your roses deeply, thereby avoiding foliage burn.

Following their spectacular spring bloom, your climbing hybrid tea roses are probably putting out new growth. The next series of blooms will come mainly on this new growth. As the new canes grow, coax them into a curving, horizontal position by fastening them to existing canes with plant ties, with the ends lower than the cane's point of origin. Where possible, create a new layer between bloomed-out canes. A simple means

\*Name on request—Ed.

of doing this is to screw cuphooks into your fence and slip the cane under them. There is a definite reason for this manner of training. Carbohydrates rise through the canes and the canes grow longer and longer until checked. For example, the variety High Noon has been known to grow twenty-five feet in a season with a cluster of blooms at the tip. But if the cane is trained in a horizontal position, the carbohydrates will force the leaf buds to grow. Each bud becomes a flowering stem, hence a spectacular mass of color. When blooms are cut from a climbing hybrid tea rose, leave at least two sets of leaves. Another bloom will develop in about six weeks, just as it does on a bush rose.

Nettie B. Trott  
SD Rose Society

## • FUCHSIAS

HALF the fun of gardening comes from sharing your successes with friends. With fuchsias, that pleasure is almost guaranteed.

Here in California, where almost every known plant and flower can be grown, we're often surprised at the number of people who don't know many of our common flowers. When a visitor from a cold climate asked us recently what a fuchsia looked like, we suddenly realized that it's almost in a class by itself.

The infinite varieties of colorful, pendent blooms, dancing in the breeze like gay little ballet girls, are not like any other flowers we know. And the fact that they are so easy to propagate and care for is a delight to the novice and experienced gardener alike. A mild, moist, coastal climate suits them so well that California has become the center for hybridizers, who have developed many hundreds of named varieties of almost every color and type imaginable. You can choose not only the color and shape (basket, bush, tree, etc.), but also varieties adapted to different locations, temperatures, and shade conditions. Some even take full sun.

For the average grower in this area, the main things to remember are regular supplies of moisture, food and some shade during the hot part of the day. Protection from wind is also quite important, but a building or garden wall is often all they need as a shield.

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to avoid accumulation of salts, is very important, and fogging the air around plants on dry, hot days is also essential. Plenty of water greatly helps to control pests such as white fly and red spider, but mild sprays are often needed. We find feeding every two or three weeks with a mild solution of organic (fish emulsion base) fertilizer better than the heavier, once a month feedings often recommended. But fuchsias are not tender or touchy plants, and respond nicely to ordinary care. This is the time of year to enjoy them most.

Morrison W. Doty  
SD Fuchsia Society

## • BEGONIAS

ALL OF the trouble and work of the begonia grower begins to pay off now—this is the time for enjoyment. The frantic re-potting, trimming and arranging have been completed—we hope—and only routine puttering chores are required.

Watering is always the main chore. When the weather becomes hot and dry, water is needed frequently. The key word is "dry" rather than hot, since begonias will stand a great deal of heat if they are moist enough. Keep in mind that the natural habitat of many of these plants is the tropics.

Spraying for insects and disease is necessary since the very conditions that make the weather pleasant for humans and plants make it pleasant for other things, too, and the bugs eat and grow. Spray in one of two ways—a preventive spray once a week or every ten days, or when you see evidence of pest infestation. The choice is up to the individual; but **SPRAY ACCORDING TO THE DIRECTIONS ON THE LABEL OF THE PRODUCT USED.**

As the plants grow larger—especially when the top growth seems to over-balance the size of the container—it is wise to examine the drainage hole to see if the roots are growing out of it. If this is the case, a larger container is indicated, so repot the plant into the next larger size.

Feeding is another of the current chores. Here, again, use the label directions as a guide. If you feed once a month, as most labels specify, follow the directions *exactly*. If you prefer to feed twice a month, use half the recommended amount; if, however, you use the "once a week" method, one fourth of the monthly amount is applied.

A good point to remember at all times is that the succulent type of begonia requires a somewhat dryer

condition than most other types; this includes your semperflorens, semi-tuberous, and particularly your tuberous. This last type is especially susceptible to stem rot from over-watering. If you are at all doubtful as to whether to water, don't.

In addition to enjoying the blooms of tuberous begonias at this time of year, try a few of the brightly colored rexes. Give them a bit more shade, and a bit more water than the tuberous, but otherwise treat them about the same.

Plants are like people—children especially. Keep them well housed (properly potted or planted), clean (free of insects, snails, slugs, and fungus), properly fed (not too much and not too little—if there must be a choice, underfed rather than overfed), and watch for proper environment (air circulation, amount of light, adequate water). If their needs are fulfilled, plants, like people—children, especially—are to be enjoyed.

Margaret M. Lee

## • ORCHIDS

AT THE Orchid Show in April the question asked most often at the Information desk was "Why didn't my cymbidium bloom this year?" It wasn't too many years ago that I bought my first cymbidium orchid plant, so I know just what those people meant. With the help of an informative pamphlet I shall try to produce an answer. The following is quoted from "Orchids—Cultural Guide for the Successful Growing of Cymbidiums," by Norris Powell.

"Lack of flower spike initiation may result from: 1—Poor cultural practices which failed to produce a healthy new bulb in the normal growing period of spring through summer. Root damage and lack of sufficient fertilizer or moisture could be factors.

2—Low light intensity or very short days, due to morning and evening heavy shade, could result in insufficient storage of food. It is a practice of orchid growers to supply enough light to keep the plants slightly on the yellow side."

Now for my two cents worth: 1—Not all cymbidiums flower with equal ease. You may have a stinker that is difficult for the amateur to bloom. Also, even the best bloomer with good care doesn't necessarily bloom every year.

2—In all probability your plant needed to be repotted at the time you



purchased it. My first one certainly did, and it was a year before I found out that that was one of its ills. Always repot a newly purchased plant. If all your orchids are in the same potting mix it is easier to take good care of them.

3—Keep the plant moist; drying will seriously retard normal growth. I have found that the more water I give my plants the healthier they are. Watering by hand with a hose isn't too satisfactory unless you can go back over the plant five or six times. The easiest and best way to water is to put the plant under a sprinkler for about an hour.

So get your plant into a good potting mix, water and fertilize often enough to produce a nice big growth, and see that the plant receives enough light to boost a flower spike. With luck you will have blooms next year.

Betty Newkirk  
SD Orchid Society

## • DAHLIAS

THE care given to dahlia plants now will pay off in colorful blooms all through the summer and fall.

If the plants were not topped earlier, they should be now. This is accomplished by snapping out the tops above the uppermost set of leaves. Large varieties should be topped above two—or at most, three—sets of leaves. Other sizes should be topped above three sets, and the tips of side shoots or canes of the small pompons and miniatures may be pinched off to attain additional bushiness, and more and smaller flowers. In addition to topping, disbudding is recommended to get the best specimen blooms of the medium and large varieties.

After plants are topped, a cane appears at each leaf node. On the tip of each cane there will be three buds. The center one should be retained and the others rubbed off. Or, to have lots of flowers without attention to maximum size, don't disbud. Merely give the plants routine gardening care: feed them, water them, and keep the bugs off.

As dahlia plants grow they respond to cultivation. A rake or hoe can be used to scratch around each plant, and between beds, to keep the soil loose. This is especially desirable a day or so after watering when most soils are inclined to crust over. Shallow cultivation is helpful right up to the time the plants set good buds. Then it is

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best to stop scratching and apply a mulch.

In Southern California, watering probably is the first essential in dahlia care. From the time the plants develop a couple of sets of leaves they shouldn't be neglected. For moist soils, watering deeply once a week is plenty—every four days for sandy conditions. When the top of the soil becomes dry, it's time to water. At blooming time the water should be allowed to run a little longer, up to the point of puddling the dirt.

Feeding dahlias about once a month is recommended, but for exhibition specimens the grower might want to feed more lightly and more often. Best fertilizer balance is 4-10-10, or 5-12-12. If that is too complicated, just ask your nurseryman for bulb food, or feed and mulch liberally with composted steer manure.

Bugs are no more bothersome on dahlias than on other flowering plants, and not at all if a preventive system of applying insecticides is adopted. Gardeners can get a separate potion for each insect, but just as effective are the general-purpose chemicals and concoctions.

Malathion applied when the plants are small and again each week or two will prevent insect troubles. If that sounds too simple, the man at the nursery will recommend something that sounds real scientific, but probably just as easy to apply.

As dahlias start blooming (any day now) a few tips on cutting may help keep the flowers fresh longer. Late afternoon or early evening is the best time to pick dahlias, or if that is inconvenient, cut them early in the morning—the earlier the better, and never after the sun has started to warm up. Carry a pail of water right to the plant, and as soon as the cane is cut, plunge it into the water to keep the stem from filling with air. Leaves should be removed below the water level.

After cutting, flowers seem to last better if they are kept overnight in a cool place, out of the wind. Then if the stems are cut off an inch or so under water each day, the blooms will last longer.

Larry Sisk  
SD County Dahlia Society

## A Reader Reports . . .

Nylon stockings make ideal garden ties, according to Mrs. Kathryn Hunter. They are easy on the plant, and never rot.

# SINGING the GARDEN BLUES

Solo by Alice M. Clark

**B**LUES make for harmony in the garden. They play down the brassy notes of yellow and red. Out of the countless blues for every exposure and season, let me give you the "down beat" on a few of my favorites.

In spring the big stars of the clematis vine, Ramona, carry aloft the sky-blue tones of the many smaller blooms on handsome shrubby *Brunfelsia floribunda*, awkwardly called "Yesterday-Today-and-Tomorrow." Nearer the ground, violas hum the blue refrain, to be picked up later in the season by lobelia Cambridge Blue. Partial shade calls for *Ajuga reptans*, or one of the low-growing campanulas, preferably Rockliff, with cut leaves and a mound of blue flowers.

In April you can let the ceanothus family sing all your blues. Use the fine-leaved Point Reyes variety, *C. gloriosus*, or the larger-leaved Carmel Creeper, *C. griseus* var. *horizontalis*, for the lower registers, Mountain Haze for the middle, and tall, rangy, brilliant Sierra Blue to catch the high notes. These natives are fine for our hillsides and dry areas.

When the lavender-blue grace notes float to the ground from the Jacaranda tree, and the rounded umbels of *Agapanthus africanus*, Lily-of-the-Nile, shake their blue bells, you know that "summer is a-comin' in." A perennial that plays double blues—small, lacy flowers, hardly visible on their airy stems, followed by spectacular fruits like lapis-lazuli beads—should be in the repertoire of every floral composer. The name of this choice plant is *Dianella intermedia*, a relative of New Zealand flax, but of smaller habit. I did not find the creeping stolons too hard to control. Away from the coast it needs shade and more water. I have seen dianella in at least one of our advertiser's nurseries.\*

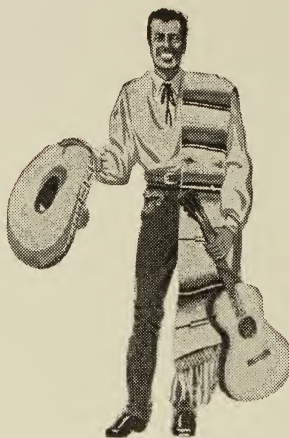
\*Name on request from the Editor.

A plant whose long, grassy leaves blend well with the sharper, stiffer ones of dianella has been known to me as *Liriope muscari*, because its spears of blue bloom are reminders of the Grape Hyacinth (*muscari*). It is sometimes listed as an ophiopogon. *Aristea eckloni*, whose common name Bluebrilliant, best describes the wonderful color of its small flowers, has rush-like foliage. Buds and seeds in different stages are set on tall, black stems, which are prized for aspiring accents in arrangements.

*Torenia fourieri*, the Wishbone Flower, comes to its own in summer shade. One wonders why this worthwhile annual with charming, two-toned blue flowers is not seen more often. Browallia, the Amethyst Flower, is another annual that is seldom grown and hard to find. If starting it from seed, be sure to select the variety with large flowers. It is a dainty, pendent plant, with small leaves and blue hat-like blooms. It may winter over in the lathhouse, where it is fine for baskets.

The beauty of the tall shrub, *Duranta stenostachya*, is accented with willowy racemes of sky-blue flowers most of the year, followed by berries that give it the common name of Golden Dew-drop. This *duranta* is always choice, but must be pruned to maintain its grace. It stands no frost. Where *duranta* gives a bonus of handsome fruits, the dividend of *Angelonia grandiflora* is the scent of apples in the air whenever the foliage is watered. This unusual perennial has narrow, pointed leaves on many tender branches, terminating in panicles of flaring, five-petaled blue bells from summer into winter—the warm San Diego winter, that is.

Here are two vines that wind up my blues. In summer, thick, thorny, bare *Solanum wendlandi* comes to life with a great surge, and grows madly, with jungle vigor, to hasten the show of its large trusses of true-blue potato-flowers from July to November. Given plenty of room, where it cannot snag the unwary, it is most desirable. As gentle as the *solanum* is fierce, and an equally rapid grower, is the Skyflower, *Thunbergia grandiflora*, a climber whose branches, well-clothed with good-sized pointed leaves, range far to make an evergreen background for its clusters of pale-blue trumpet flowers. So I end my garden blues to the sound of trumpets, whose long call will, I hope, persuade you to try some of my favorites.



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## RANCHO SANTA FE:

# Where Beauty Works

**L**AST SPRING, while cameras recorded the action, a pair of honeymooners went cycling down a quiet village street. Millions of people will see them later this year when the scene appears on television screens throughout the nation. In the background, viewers will catch a glimpse of Rancho Santa Fe through the smoke of a cigarette commercial.

Rancho Santa Fe, famous for tranquility, photogenic backgrounds, and honeymoons, was a natural choice. But few viewers, even among San Diegans, will realize the amount of determination and work behind the reputation. Beneath the beautiful surface are (1) an unusually powerful Covenant, under which the Rancho Santa Fe Association operates; and (2) the Rancho Santa Fe Garden Club. Its three-year-old program of Ranch Beautification provides the gloss and the grooming.

The Club's Beautification Committee, working with the Association, the County, and with private owners, wages a continuing campaign to improve the appearance of roadsides, to plant out essential but unsightly utilities such as reservoirs and power poles, and to landscape Association park land, turnarounds, and community buildings. The basic purpose of all projects is to maintain the character—and the reputation—of the Ranch.

The group selects areas needing attention, designs appropriate landscaping, purchases plants and plants them, then turns the area over to the proper authority (usually the Association or County) for maintenance. In establishing priorities for improvements, these criteria have been followed: (1) Area most frequently suggested, and (2) Lo-

cations seen and enjoyed by the largest number of people. Funds are raised by a house and garden tour held each year in April.

The program was conceived by the late George Richardson and undertaken by the Garden Club in 1958. The committee's emphasis on cooperation and its awareness of the importance and cost of maintenance have perhaps been the keys to its success. From the start, the aim has been to avoid undertaking more planting than could be maintained, and by working out planting plans using self-sufficient trees and shrubs, the committee has demonstrated to the Association and the County that the same budget will provide maintenance for an increasing number of plants each year. A typical maintenance schedule for new planting calls for weekly watering the first year, every two weeks the second year, and monthly watering the third year.

The yardstick in choosing plant materials includes suitability, longevity and ease of maintenance. As a commentary on what is considered suitable, home-owners on the Ranch recently reacted with a strong negative to the idea of adding more palms to the roadside plantings.

Mrs. Gifford Ewing, a Rancho Santa Fe resident, develops the landscape designs for the committee. The plants most frequently called for in her plans are *Eucalyptus citriodora*, *scifolia*, and *viminialis*; *Pinus pinea*, *radiata*, and *canariensis*; *Heteromeles arbutifolia* (California Holly); *Bougainvillea* 'Crimson Lake'; and *Hakea*. The red of the flowering eucalyptus, holly and bougainvillea will eventually occur at all entrances to the Ranch and extend



**BEFORE AND AFTER** photos illustrate the beautification projects of Rancho Santa Fe Garden Club. **BEFORE**, right, the strip at La Fremontia along the main road running through the Ranch. **AFTER**, above, plantings of juniper, pyracantha, California Holly, pines are already well established. Removal of litter is project of local Explorer Scout Troop.



the color scheme already noticeable in the Village proper.

With the aid of a truck and driver supplied by the Association, Explorer Scout Troop 717 polices the Ranch roads every month as part of a continuous clean-up program. For this service, the Garden Club pays a fixed sum per month to the Troop's treasury.

**M**EMBERS of the Beautification Committee can look back on a solid list of achievements. In the past three years, they have landscaped the Fire House, refurbished the center planting in the Village, landscaped the corner of Avenida Acacias and Paseo Delicias, and the Mimosa turnaround at Linea del Cielo (both triangular, park-like areas), and the strip at Fremontia along Paseo Delicias. Nearly half-completed is a major project of landscaping 350' of frontage at the school grounds. The adjacent parking area, 550' along the corner of La Granada and Avenida Acacias, will be surrounded with a harmonizing shrubbery border.

Plans for the immediate future include grading back and planting with

ground cover the cuts made by the new road entering the Ranch at La Valle Plateada and Paseo Delicias, and attractive signs and landscaping at the approaches to the Village.

Mrs. William Weddell is chairman of the Beautification Committee. Serving with her are Alwin Trepte, Secretary; Don C. Dickinson, Treasurer; Mrs. Ewing, D. Maitland Bakewell, Harold Oliver, Carl G. Muench, Ralph Mangan, R. Benson Fisher, William E. Norgren, Ernestine Norgren, Harold W. Cross, Howard Whiffen, Dorothy Lee, and Eugenia Walseth.

At its inception in 1958, the Committee took inspiration from the words of Daniel H. Burnham: "Let your watchword be order and your beacon beauty." Beauty and order provide the atmosphere for good living and relaxation, a place to raise a family, spend a honeymoon, or cycle down the Village street, with or without cameras grinding. The surface is smooth, unhurried, effortless. But as with any work of art or nature, results come from work, patience and constant attention. That's how beauty works in Rancho Santa Fe.

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# Potpourri

... people, places, products in the news

## • Hawaii Calls

A two-week Hawaiian tour, specially prepared for flower and garden lovers, is being sponsored by the San Diego Floral Association for members and friends. Leaving San Diego by air on August 12, the group will visit Oahu, Maui, Hawaii, and Kauai, and return to San Diego on August 26. Members of the group will gain entree to a number of private gardens which ordinarily are closed to the public. Early reservations are advisable, since the size of the group has been limited to assure maximum satisfaction. Brochures may be obtained from Draper Travel Agency, 1258 5th Avenue, San Diego 1, or from the Floral Association.

## • Birdland

This has been a good year for local bird watchers. In addition to the out-sized swarms of Western Tanagers which have caught the eye of people who generally don't know a bird from a bee, a number of firsts in local bird life have been recorded. The Natural History Museum has added to its collection a Red-breasted Goose, previously known only from Siberia, taken in San Diego County for the first American record; a Worm-eating Warbler, first record west of the Rio Grande; a Hepatic Tanager, the first reported in California; and a Black-throated Green Warbler, collected only twice before in California. These rare tourists are believed to have arrived here by accident rather than intent.

## • Blooming Balboa Park

The Botanical Building (open daily except Friday) in Balboa Park rates a special visit during June and July. Plants in bloom will include gloxinias, hydrangeas, and calceolarias, plus rubra lilies in July.

Other spots of color in the park, from the list supplied by W. E. Hawkins, Park Supervisor, include:

Formal Garden: Roses (June & July), zinnias, dahlias, cannalilies (July).

Alcazar Garden: zinnias (late June through July).

El Prado: hydrangeas, begonias, magnolias.

Lily Pool: water lilies.

Mall: petunias and ageratum.

Palisades Area: marigolds, ageratum, magnolias, hibiscus.

West of Fine Arts Gallery and 6th & Juniper area: hydrangea.

## • Quail Gardens

Quail Gardens Foundation will serve as adviser to San Diego County authorities in the development of Quail Gardens, near Encinitas, as a botanical garden. The 26-acre area, the gift of the late Mrs. Ruth Larabee, is envisioned as a display garden for the wide range of tropical and subtropical plants which thrive in San Diego County.

At its first annual meeting May 6, the Foundation elected Mrs. R. A. Seibert of Escondido as president. Other officers are Mrs. R. C. Lawton, Chula Vista, 1st Vice President; Mrs. Mildred MacPherson, Encinitas, 2nd Vice President; Paul W. Brown, Encinitas, treasurer. Mrs. Paul W. Behrends, 442 Orpheus Ave., Encinitas, is serving as secretary pro tem.

To accommodate area garden clubs and allied organizations which desire to participate in developing a botanical garden for San Diego County, charter memberships in the Foundation are being held open until January 1, 1962. Classes of annual membership are Active (individual), \$3; Junior group, \$5; Society, \$10; Supporting, \$25; Sustaining, \$50; Patron, \$100.

The Escondido Garden Club is one of the Founder Members. The Vista Garden Club became a Charter Member at the May meeting.

## • Bonsai Club

The San Diego Bonsai Society, with some forty charter members, is in the process of organization. Ralph J. Phillips is president. Although regular meetings have not yet been scheduled, the club is currently sponsoring a series of lessons with a Los Angeles bonsai expert as instructor.

## • Shade Plant Show

The largest and most attractive flower show of its kind in the West is the goal of the California National Fuchsia Society at this year's Mid-summer Shade Plant Show. Time: Saturday, June 17, 2-10 p.m.; Sunday, June 18, 12-9 p.m. Place: Long Beach Municipal Auditorium.





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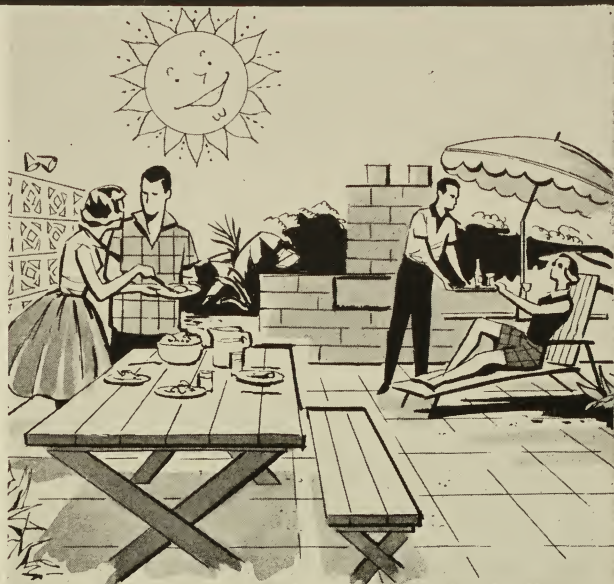
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